(b) Indian Airlines have reached an understanding with the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal regarding measures for ensuring security of Indian Airlines flights taking off from Kathmandu.

(c) Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) have been deployed for aviation security duties at the following 19 airports:

Jaipur, Patna, Port Blair, Vadodara, Guwahati, Agartala, Ranchi, Rajkot, Bhopal, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Cochin, Lucknow, Bagdogra, Bangalore, Vishakhapatnam, Chandigarh, Mangalore and Udaipur.

Sky Marshals are deployed on Indian Airlines flights on selected routes at random basis.

Global Advisors for Disinvestment of IA and AI

167. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ministry has finalized the Global Advisors to start the process of Disinvestment in the Air India and Indian Airlines; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of the terms and conditions from the Ministry to the Global Advisors and vice-versa in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The process for appointment of Advisors for disinvestment of Air India and Indian Airlines is nearing completion.

Security at Kathmandu Airport

168. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have resumed its IC-814 flight to Kathmandu;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been arrived at between the two countries to ensure the security and safety of the flight taking off from Kathmandu; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if the answer to (b) above be in the negative, the steps taken by Government to ensure that there is no recurrence to recent incident of hijacking of Indian Airlines flight IC-814 from Kathmandu?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Airlines have reached an understanding with the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal regarding measures for ensuring security of Indian Airlines flights taking off from Kathmandu. These include:

(i) Acess control to the aircraft on the ground by Indian Airlines.

(ii) Ledder-point frisking of passengers and their hand baggage on a specially enclosed platform by Indian Airlines.

(iii) Secondary x-Ray screening of checked baggage in the baggage make-up area.

(c) Does not arise.

Evening Flights to Cochin, Kozhikode and Trivandrum

169. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian airlines flights are scheduled in such a way that a person can not travel to Trivandrum, Cochin and Kozhikode in the afternoon as all the flights to these destinations leave in the forenoon; and

(b) if so, whether Government will take steps to have some of the flights operated in the afternoon to these destinations?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Some services of Indian Airlines leave in the afternoon to some destinations in Kerala. Due to various limitations like availability of aircraft, the need to provide services on major routes in the morning hours, competition and other operational reasons, it is not feasible to operate more services in the afternoon.

Poor Quality of Service offered by AI and IA

170. SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines and Air India have accumulated losses over the years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that performance and quality of service to the passengers have nose-dived over the years and there have been mounting complaints in this regard;